

# The Grace Of God

By Ron Boatwright

God's grace is His unmerited favor. Grace "is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). We cannot earn our salvation, but we must qualify for it. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). But we know all men will not be saved. Jesus says only few will be saved but the vast majority will be eternally lost (Matthew 7:13-14).

The supreme need for all of mankind is to obtain the forgiveness and salvation God wants to give us if we are to be saved. But what must we do to qualify for it? "The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). To not be lost we must repent by making changes in our life. We must change and do what God says we must do if we want to be saved.

Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). One must do God's will if he/she really wants to go to heaven. Hebrews 5:9 says concerning Jesus, that "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him". What does Jesus say we must do to obtain the salvation He wants to give us? Jesus says, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he that does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). One needs help to misunderstand what Jesus says here. Jesus does not say, "He that believes and is not baptized shall be saved", nor does He say, "He that believes is saved and can be baptized later". The majority of denominational churches laugh at the Lord's requirement for one to be baptized in order to be saved. The denominations say that it is not necessary for one to be baptized to be saved. They do not really believe in Jesus because they are not willing to do what He says and for the reason He says. In doing this they reject the grace of God and the salvation He wants to give us.

God's grace is located in Christ. 2 Timothy 2:1 says, "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. One must be in Christ to take advantage of this grace. How does one get into Christ to receive this grace? Paul says, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). According to God's word as found in the Bible, baptism is the only way to get into Christ in order to be saved. Paul says, "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:10). After we have been baptized into Christ in order to be saved we must continue to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).

By doing any of the things man says we must do to be saved will not qualify us to receive God's grace so we can be saved. Jesus says, "In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7). The commandments of men will only cause one to be eternally lost. Anything that differs from what God says in the Bible is false doctrine which is designed by Satan to cause people to be eternally lost. In order to qualify for God's grace so we can be saved, we must do what God says, the way He says, and for the reason He says.

# Edifier

**Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

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**November 27, 2016**



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

**Sunday Worship:**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**863-899-0987**

**10:20 am Worship**

**Email: wvvann@yahoo.com**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**www.evantchurchofchrist.org**

**Wednesday Night**

**7:pm**

# Thanksgiving Thoughts

This month we will all pause and observe a day our nation sets aside as a holiday. It is "Thanksgiving Day." Hopefully all Americans will pause to remember just how grateful they should be for the privileges and blessings afforded us. It is doubtful that will happen because of the decided turn toward secular humanism our government and society has taken.

It hasn't always been that way. In 1863, a noble statesman from Kentucky wrote the following Thanksgiving Proclamation. Abraham Lincoln wrote:

It is the duty of nations as well as of man to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November, a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father Who dwelleth in the heavens. — A. Lincoln, 1863

What a pity that men who guide our government and men who greatly influence the morality of our society today do not have the sentiments expressed by one of the greatest leaders this nation ever produced.

Let us be thankful every day, and especially this season of the year. When we gather as families on Thanksgiving Day, let us be truly thankful for the benevolence God has lavishly poured out on us. — DRS

## Those to Serve

(B) Calvin Burks (FV) Jack Wall  
(O) Doug Pruett (A) Kyle Stifflemire  
1st prayer Mike Mallett  
2nd prayer Jeffrey Burks  
Announcements: Keith Stifflemire  
Singing: Judd Wall

**Prayer List:**  
Naomi Wall  
Leta Sheldon  
Mildred Lovell  
Janese Lancaster  
Ruby Jones  
Lloyd Crownover  
Pray for our Nation  
Our Troops  
Law Enforcement

## Dates to Remember

December 4th  
Mission Sunday  
December 7th  
Pearl Harbor Day  
December 10th  
Christmas Party at  
Ruby's Jones Home



To

Linda Houts November 28th  
Lynette Vann December 14th  
Virginia Lovell December 19th  
Leta Sheldon December 25th

## Psalm 1 (KJV)

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.